

THE MAYFIELD HOUSE

MR. JAMES GREENE

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MAYFIELD HOUSE

The Mayfield family was the first white family into the Brentwood area. They arrived in 1790 and built a fort to protect themselves and others who followed from hostile Indians. Six persons in the Mayfield family were killed by Indians. One son George was kidnapped by Creek Indians and kept by them until ransomed ten years later. This house was the home of Sutherland Mayfield, the personal physician of Andrew Jackson. The original log residence is in a perfect state of repair and is still structurally sound. The roof supports are complete tree trunks. The old wide flooring remains in the upstairs as well as some of the original windows in the lower floor rooms.

BRENTWOOD BROCHURE

BRENTWOOD, TN 37023
PO BOX 1343

(615) 371-8105 WORK
(615) 373-2825 HOME

Deposition of Harriett Reed- I was present at the conversation of my husband and S. S. Mayfield.

Deposition of Thomas Holt- 13 Dec. 1856- I was an agent of the Methodist Church who went to Dr. S. S. Mayfield in 1850-52 and inquired of buying land which we had selected as a site for a church. He said his father gave the land that he lived on to his wife and children and he could not sell it to us.

Deposition - 3 April 1856- Lewis C. Allen- I have rented land for several years and am acquainted with the land near the depot occupied by Dr. Mayfield and have been for about 25 years. I think it is midway between Nashville and Franklin, about 9 miles each way and a short distance from the Nashville and Franklin Turnpike. I think the rent would be worth about \$340 per year.

Deposition - Wiley B. White- I was sheriff during 1852-1854 and am acquainted with Dr. S. S. Mayfield and John P. Waller. I learned Waller was security for Mayfield. I had some executions on both of them but Mayfield's effects were so far exhausted that it was impossible to make the amounts of the executions. I was compelled to levy upon Waller's property.

Deposition of Charles A. Merrill. I bought and disposed of the interest that George Mayfield owned in 60 and 77 acre tracts of land on the Little Harpeth. The lien of Dr. Dickinson was adjusted a short time after my purchase by Dr. Dickinson some three years after Dr. S. S. Mayfield purchased the same from Dr. Dickinson's heirs by executing his note with me for about \$1000 May 26 1856.

Deposition James Perkins- I have known George Mayfield from my earliest recollections. I know nothing of his property. I thought he was an industrious farmer but not a very thrifty man. I knew of no occupation of his in his later life. He had an excellent character for honesty.

Deposition of Sterling Harper- 2 April 1856- I am a carpenter and am acquainted with the plantation where Dr. S. S. Mayfield resided previous to moving to Franklin. I did work on a house built on said place. Mr. Stratton first undertook to build the house at about \$825. The kitchen was included in the body of which was raised prior to the contract. I don't think Mr. Stratton completed the contract. He didn't finish the house or kitchen. I worked on the house and Mr. Cooper worked on it. I think the dwelling house is finished but the kitchen isn't. I think the timber and lumber and building of the house was worth \$1200 at that time. I think \$30 should be deducted to finish the kitchen. I should not call Stratton's job on the house a first rate in all it's parts. When Dr. Mayfield commenced building the house there was a hewed log house or room below a room above a cook-kitchen and smoke house built of logs. Dr. Mayfield had a large family at that time and think the building too small to accommodate his family and his black family. There was an office built on the place but have not included it in my estimate. I suppose the wood work and materials were worth about \$80 but don't know what the brick work was worth. I suppose the rent of the place to be worth \$300 to \$350 including the

portion now owned by Robert Mayfield which is part of the original tract. I am not able to estimate the value of all of the material, stone, brick, lumber, plastering, papering, etc. is worth. I received some of my money from Dr. Mayfield and some from John P. Waller at Dr. Mayfield's instructions but have not received the final payment. The house was built of cedar logs and weather boards.

Deposition of Benjamin D. Smith- I am acquainted with the tract of land on the Wilson Turnpike on which Dr. S. S. Mayfield has been residing the last few years. I think he has lived here 5 or 6 years. He left the place and came to town about a year ago. I think he had some negroes on the place previous to his moving there. There was a tolerable comfortable log house on the place previous to his moving there and he built a new dwelling house before he moved there. The dwelling consisted of four cedar pens under one roof with passages with right angles, weather boarded, lathed or plastered on the inside and I think the house is about 50 ft. square. They also built a kitchen about the same length of log and weather board with brick chimneys and a brick office about 16 X 18 feet in the clear. I never noticed other buildings except 2 log cribs previous to his moving. I think it would cost between \$1500 to \$2000 to build the dwelling house, the cost of the kitchen about \$200 as I believe it to be built of old logs and the brick office would cost about \$200 or \$300. The out houses are not very valuable. I know Dr. Joel Mayfield. He commenced practicing about 2 or 3 years ago. I am not sure he practiced by himself but seemed to make a favorable impression. I don't think he could have made much for a year or two if he remained alone and think he formed a partnership with his father very soon after he commenced to practice. Dr. Mayfield's wife died about two years ago. Dr. Joel is about 24 years old. George (the youngest) is about 17 or 18 years old and the others: viz, William, John and Sarah about equal periods between. I think George, Sr. died about 7 years ago. I think the land would have rented for about \$2.50 per acre. I think all of the children resided on the land except for Dr. Joel, who moved to Franklin last spring. I think Dr. S. S. Mayfield had lived in Franklin about 15 years before he moved to the land in 1850. 20 Aug. 1855

Deposition of Constant P. Sneed- I reside about 1/2 mile from Dr. S. S. Mayfield's place. I don't know the value of the improvements he built on the land. The land adjoining his property brought \$40 an acre, when it sold. The improved lands of George Sneed's sold for \$28 an acre about 3 years ago and Mr. E. B. Ormes' sold for about \$60 an acre about 6 or 7 months ago. George Mayfield lived on his land before his death and his son Robert, lived with him. I think he commenced the practice of medicine in the neighborhood about two years ago (Joel). Joel and his father practiced in partnership soon after he started and practiced there until last spring when he moved to Franklin where he now resides. Dr. Sutherland S. Mayfield lived in Franklin, too. I understand they are now practicing in copartnership and occupy the same office. I understand Dr. Sutherland Mayfield has an extensive practice and his reputation as a physician is very high. I last saw George Mayfield, Sr. a short time before he went to Mississippi. I understand he died in Yallahusha Co., Miss. at the residence of Thomas Hardeman in the spring

after he left. It was in the fall of the year he left the old neighborhood that I last saw him. He told me that he would give the tract of land on which he then lived to Shannon Mayfield's wife and children because Shannon was embarrassed and could not own anything. He would give his mill Creek place to his son, Robert, and he would take his son, Peter, with him and provide for him in Mississippi. He said he had done for his son, A. J. Mayfield. I don't recollect that he said anything about his daughter, Ann, at that time. I understood George's business was to see about his land in Mississippi. I do not recollect the exact time that Peter died, but it was 2 or 3 years after his father. I think the daughter, Ann, died before he left the neighborhood. George and I had been very intimate and confidential for many years. He spoke to me of his disapproval of the manner in which Shannon had managed his business and said Gentry had broken Shannon up and through Shannon's influence, had broken him up, too. He said he would not give Shannon any land but would give it to Sally and the children and that he wished it to remain in the family. He said he would have that fixed before he left for Mississippi. George said that Shannon was broke and had influenced him to go security until he had broken him up, too. My understanding is that George's land and slaves were sold to pay security debts. I know he had five or six slaves to be sold and were taken away. I heard it was to pay Shannon's debts. I think George was in the neighborhood of 60 years at the time of his death. I have been told by Dr. S. S. Mayfield that George was 68 or 69 years of age. I first heard George complain of S. S. after he became involved with Gentry. Dr. Joel Mayfield was absent for sometime and I understood went to Mississippi but had not removed from the neighborhood.

Deposition of John W. W. Miller- S. S. Mayfield executed a deed of trust to me 12 July 1841. I collected \$1152 from the estate of Reuben A. Gentry for claims that S. S. Mayfield had. (tells of collecting and paying debts)

Deposition of Robert Courtney- I have examined the dwelling house, kitchen, office and improvements on the land in dispute and estimate their value at \$2600. I am a house carpenter. The dwelling house is a frame house at 50 ft. square, one story 14 ft. high with four 18ft. rooms and cross passages. The upper part or garret is finished with two rooms and a passage with six dormer windows and two windows to each of the gable ends; three or four large windows below and eight doors and two upstairs; a stair case and 4 mantle pieces and four chimneys. The office is a brick house 18 X 20 feet, one story with two windows and one mantlepiece and one door. The kitchen is a one story house, 50 X 18 ft. with two rooms and a passage and two chimneys. The residence is about 1/2 mile from the Franklin and Nashville Turnpike Road and about 100 yds from the Harpeth Turnpike Road and the office a little nearer. The Tennessee Alabama Railroad runs between the Turnpike Roads and about 400 yards from the dwelling. I would value the dwelling house at \$1950, office \$350 and the kitchen at \$300. I made the estimate of the buildings on the prices of materials when they were built in 1849. In valuing the kitchen, it was an estimate as the body being an old house moved and put up there and weather boarded and newly covered with new chimneys. I think the passage floor of the kitchen was newly laid down and the rooms

floors with the old flooring planks. I would value the new material in the kitchen at \$117 and the work about \$230 and the chimney about \$30 or \$32. The carpenter's work was worth about \$665 in the dwelling house. The carpenter's work was only second rate. The brick in the office was worth \$144, the plaster \$31, carpenter's labor \$61, nails, glass, lock and hinges \$8, stove work \$38, timbers \$39. I made the examination of the work at the request of John P. Waller. I did the work for Parson C. Cunningham's lot in Franklin which was \$2300. There is not as much work in Cunningham's house as in Mayfield's, nor is it worth as much and the work done was better at Cunningham's. I did the work there in 1850. His house fronts 50 ft. by 19 ft. with an ell 32 ft. by 19 ft. and a back porch 20 ft. by 10 ft. all two stories high. The front is divided into two rooms and a passage, both below and above stairs and the ell has a lower and upper room. The kitchen is 18 X 30 ft., one story high divided into two rooms, with a gallery the length of the kitchen and 20 ft. extending to the house. The stable cedar part is about 20 ft. square with a loft. I also made a fence around his lot and dug a well upon it and furnished everything to the delivery of the keys. The dwelling was painted and papered. The kitchen was plastered and painted. The dwelling has blinds and shutters on the windows. The materials were ordinary and the workmanship as cheap and plain as could be for a respectable looking house. I understood the Mayfield house to be partly frame and partly a log house. The stem of one of the chimneys was blown off to the roof. The dwelling house has not been papered. I think the house has been finished except for the windows and shutters.

Deposition of Abner Vaughn. I went with Robert Courtney to examine the Mayfield buildings and concur with said Courtney's findings.

Deposition of James Johnson- 8 Sept. 1855- I am acquainted with the Mayfield land on the Little Harpeth and knew it in 1847. I have owned land at that time and still do in the neighborhood. I would value it at about \$22 per acre at that time.

Deposition of William Owen. I was acquainted with the above tract of land in 1847 and value it at \$25 per acre at that time. I was acquainted with George Mayfield in 1847 and think his life estate in the land would lessen the value about \$5 an acre. I don't know the value of the Mill Creek tract of land.

Deposition of Joshua W. Owen- The Mill Creek tract of 160 acres was worth about \$15 an acre in 1847 and with the encumbrances of the life estate, about \$12 an acre.

William C. Mayfield, John H. Mayfield, Sarah Ann Mayfield, George Mayfield, (minors) and Joel Mayfield are children of Sutherland S. Mayfield.

On 6 Nov. 1847, George Mayfield, father of Sutherland S. Mayfield, deeded to Robert C. Mayfield, in trust, three tracts of land containing 77 acres, 60 acres, and 5 acres. The purpose of the deed of trust was for the benefit and use of Sutherland S. Mayfield. There was pending in the Court for trial Oct. term 1853, a suit of Eben L. Crocker against Sutherland S. Mayfield